

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 7 and 8 remain pending in the application and are all independent. Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 3, 7 and 8 have been amended herein.

The drawings were objected to for not including reference signs mentioned in the specification. Specifically, platen "7" at page 17, line 3 of the specification, and "VH-x" at page 21, line 1 of the specification were noted. In response, Applicants have deleted "7" at page 17, line 3, and have amended "VH-x" to read --VH-c-- at page 21, line 1 of the specification.

The drawings were further objected to for including reference characters not mentioned in the specification. Specifically, "6A", "6B", "8A" and "9A" of Figure 8, "VH-c" of Figure 1, and "301-3" of Figure 2 were noted. In response, Applicants have amended the specification at page 16, line 26 to read --shafts 6A and 6B-- and at page 21, line 1 to read --VH-c--. Reference numerals "9", "8A" and "9A" have been deleted from Figure 8 and reference numeral "301-3" has been deleted in Figure 2 in the accompanying Letter Transmitting Corrected Formal Drawings.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the drawings are respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claim 3 recites allowable subject matter. This claim was objected to for being dependent upon a rejected claim. In keeping with this indication of allowable subject matter, Claim 3 has been amended herein in independent form. Accordingly, Claim 3 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1 and 4-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,382,755 (Imanaka et al.). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Imanaka et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,068,360 (Hiwada) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,652,057 (Masuda et al.). Since Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 have been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejections thereof are deemed moot. In addition, Claims 7 and 8 have been amended herein to place them in condition for allowance. For example, like Claim 3, Claim 7 now recites that the voltage generating means adds a voltage, which has been obtained via a time-constant circuit and a current adding circuit, to the reference voltage. (In this regard, contrary to the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowability of Claim 3, that claim does not recite that a voltage is added to the output signal of the detection means. Nevertheless, the recited features are believed to be allowable for the claimed combination.) Claim 8 has been amended to recite that the energy increasing step increases electrical energy by adding to a reference voltage

of a DC/DC converter and that the voltage signal is generated by a differential circuit in a time-constant circuit in the DC/DC converter. These features are not believed to be disclosed or suggested by Imanaka et al., Hiwada or Masuda et al., whether taken individually or in combination.

Thus, independent Claims 3, 7, and 8 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Williamson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark A. Williamson
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

MAW/agn

DC_MAIN 227597v1